

4. (Unamended) A Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1, made by expressing a Slit protein in a cell, whereby the Slit protein is proteolytically processed to form the Slit-N polypeptide.

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6. (Unamended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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Q2 7. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the Slit-N polypeptide is selected from an hSlit-1-N, an hSlit-2-N and an hSlit-3-N polypeptide.

8. (Unamended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a neuroactive agent other than the Slit-N polypeptide.

9. (Unamended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a neuroactive agent other than the Slit-N polypeptide, wherein the agent is NGF.

10. (Unamended) A method of promoting axon branching or sprouting, comprising contacting a neuron with a composition comprising an effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1.

11. (Unamended) A method of treating a neuropathy comprising administering a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1.

12. (New) A Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 2, contained in a pharmaceutical composition.

13. (New) A Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 2, made by expressing a Slit protein in a cell, whereby the Slit protein is proteolytically processed to form the Slit-N polypeptide.

Q3 14. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

15. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a neuroactive agent other than the Slit-N polypeptide.

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16. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a neuroactive agent other than the Slit-N polypeptide, wherein the agent is NGF.

17. (New) A method of promoting axon branching or sprouting, comprising contacting a neuron with a composition comprising an effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 2.

18. (New) A method of treating a neuropathy comprising administering a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 2.

19. (New) A Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the Slit-N polypeptide is an hSlit-2-N polypeptide.

20. (New) A Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 19, contained in a pharmaceutical composition.

21. (New) A Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 19, made by expressing a Slit protein in a cell, whereby the Slit protein is proteolytically processed to form the Slit-N polypeptide.

22. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 19, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

23. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a Slit-N polypeptide according to claim 19, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, further